Immunization and Health Services Research
Helping our clients address critical health issues around the world
Around the world, children and adults want to live lives free from the diseases and illnesses that can debilitate families, communities, and nations. For more than 30 years, Abt Associates has provided accurate, objective information and analysis to help monitor the outcomes of immunization efforts in the U.S. and around the world. We are an independent research firm with wide-ranging expertise in clinical research, clinical trials, immunization surveillance, epidemiological studies, health financing, outcomes research, and much more. We work with government agencies (including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense), public health officials, pharmaceutical companies, and others, providing the accurate data and analysis that is at the heart of effective decision-making.

Immunization is a complex, multi-faceted, and often global effort, requiring careful research and analysis on the safety, effectiveness, and appropriateness of vaccines. This research can help ensure that public health policies are sensible and on target, and that all appropriate populations receive coverage.

At Abt Associates, we’re working to improve the health of children and adults via our diverse work in preventive and therapeutic immunizations. The information and insights we gather help address local, national, and global health challenges, including childhood health, influenza, HIV, and smallpox. But all of our projects share a common focus on accurate data, meticulous analysis, and close collaboration with our clients.
Several key capabilities and qualities differentiate Abt Associates and make us well-suited for monitoring immunization efforts and providing other critical health services:

**Objectivity**
We are an independent research firm adept at collecting and analyzing data. Whether we are working for a pharmaceutical firm or a government agency, we bring objectivity to every project – an approach that has earned us a widespread reputation for integrity, as well as scientific and academic credibility.

**Comprehensive services**
We cover the full spectrum of research-based services – including clinical trials, epidemiological studies, immunization surveillance, health economics, and outcomes research. This wide-ranging expertise gives us an unequalled perspective on the challenges of immunization efforts, and ensures that our clients get the comprehensive services they need.

**Extensive experience**
We have been active in immunization surveillance for many years, giving us a unique perspective on the many and varied challenges of effective surveillance. When you choose Abt Associates, you leverage our real-world experience and extensive knowledge of key areas of immunization.

**Expert staff**
Our permanent staff includes social scientists, epidemiologists, bio-statisticians, technologists, health economists, clinicians, and other specialists – all joined in a common effort to evaluate vaccines and monitor immunization efforts in the most effective, objective manner possible.

**Global reach**
Abt Associates’ International Health Area works to address the many international challenges of immunization in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Our analysis, technical assistance, and training focuses primarily on ensuring the sustainable financing of immunization programs. We work at both the global and country-specific levels – exploring worldwide costs of immunizations and the additional costs of reaching currently uncovered populations. We also work with foreign governments to raise the efficiency of immunization programs, as well as to increase the financing of these efforts.

**Experience managing large, complex projects**
We are a large (1,000+) global organization capable of managing large, complex projects for our clients. Our size lets us draw from an extensive internal staff and capabilities. For example, we make millions of phone calls a year to conduct our current surveys. When appropriate, we also partner with other leading organizations that bring specialized services and skills to our projects.

**State-of-the-art facilities**
To aid our clients, Abt Associates offers a full range of advanced support services – including three fully integrated, state-of-the-art telephone centers that tap the power of computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A robust WAN/LAN computing infrastructure and industry-leading videoconferencing connects our branch offices. Our Cambridge, Massachusetts headquarters has Department of Defense-approved Secret Security Clearance, with building security forces on duty at all times. And we have a national field staff capable of responding quickly to any challenge.
Diverse populations
We have worked with an extraordinary variety of diverse populations around the world, each posing different challenges in obtaining high response rates and high data quality. We have collected data from frail elderly individuals, mothers of young children, people with HIV and AIDS, Medicare beneficiaries, Medicaid recipients, food stamp recipients, public housing residents, people in developing countries, and many more. In short, we are capable of addressing a wide range of populations that might benefit from immunization.

Responsive results
Our expertise, robust organization, and technological proficiency let us move quickly to address the needs of our clients – providing high-quality data in the most efficient manner possible. Abt Associates can help you meet time-sensitive challenges, bringing you complete results in a streamlined manner.

An unwavering focus on our clients
Whether you are a pharmaceutical company that needs to conduct clinical trials on a new vaccine, or a government agency that needs to conduct surveillance of childhood vaccination compliance in a developing country, we listen to your needs and create solutions that provide thorough, accurate data in a timely manner. Our clients return to us year after year to conduct new, strategic research projects – providing a true measure of their satisfaction with our work.
Selected Abt Associates Projects

There are no typical Abt Associates projects – our work is diverse and wide-ranging. However, all of our projects are united by a quest for the sound information and empirical analysis that are the best foundation for decision making in both the public and private sectors. Here are just a few of our projects in the area of immunization.

National Immunization Survey
Since 1994, Abt Associates has conducted the National Immunization Survey (NIS) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NIS is an extremely large and complex undertaking that screens households throughout the country to find the relatively narrow target population of parents of children ages 19 to 35 months. On an annual basis, over 2,000,000 telephone numbers are screened and approximately 34,000 interviews are conducted with eligible families. Requests for immunization data are mailed to more than 40,000 health care providers. The CDC uses NIS information to monitor vaccination coverage and track the response by parents and health care providers to changes in immunization guidelines and policies. By examining vaccination coverage geographically and for population subgroups, the NIS helps policymakers focus immunization initiatives where they are most needed.

Smallpox Vaccination Surveillance
In response to the needs of the Department of Defense, Abt Associates recently created an innovative surveillance solution that actively monitors, records, and analyzes all events associated with administration of the smallpox vaccine to more than 2,000 medical and military personnel. Working as a team with the Rand Corporation and Voxiva Inc., Abt Associates developed a state-of-the-art pilot reporting system that closely monitors initial vaccine recipients. This integrated system leverages the Internet and advanced information technology to provide a new, efficient way of monitoring and communicating with individuals receiving the smallpox vaccine.

HIVNET
As an example of our clinical and outcomes research, Abt Associates led and managed an 8-year effort to design and conduct key HIV vaccine efficacy trials. Known as the HIV Network for Prevention Trials (HIVNET), this ambitious project established the infrastructure for the conduct of Phase I – III clinical trials of vaccines to prevent HIV infection and non-vaccine prevention interventions – including microbicides and behavioral counseling. Abt Associates has also conducted studies of vaccines for acellular pertussis and strep pneumonia.

Immunization Policy Research
Abt Associates has explored U.S. policies that influence immunization levels. For example, we evaluated the Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training program with respect to a variety of outcome measures including immunization rates for children of program participants. Abt Associates also evaluated the Preschool Immunization Project in Georgia, a four-year program aimed at increasing rates of childhood vaccinations among families receiving public assistance. As described in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the study concluded that families who were faced with financial penalties for failing to have their children immunized were much more likely to comply than those who were not.

Sustainability and Financing of Immunization
Internationally, Abt Associates works to improve financing for immunization by working with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and via our work with individual country governments. Abt Associates has contributed to GAVI policy development, conducted global and regional training for immunization program officials, and has a staff member on the GAVI Financing Task Force. Abt Associates has also worked with the governments of many countries to assist them in improving the financial sustainability of their immunization programs. This work is funded by a variety of clients, including the Children’s Vaccine Program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Health Organization, and others.

For further information on these Abt Associates projects and more, go to www.abtassociates.com.
About Abt Associates

Immunization is just one of the many important global issues where Abt Associates applies its extensive research services. Abt Associates is one of the largest government and business research and consulting firms in the world. Founded in 1965, we have gained a reputation for providing our clients with sound information and careful analysis – providing the best possible foundation for decision-making. We are dedicated to providing practical, measurable, high-value solutions to a wide range of challenges. Our practice spans four broad lines of endeavor: domestic public policy, international development, Abt Associates Clinical Trials (AACT), and business research and consulting.

A global organization known for innovation
Abt Associates is a private, employee-owned company with a full-time permanent staff of approximately 1,000 in offices throughout the world. Approximately 50 percent of our staff has graduate degrees; one in six has a doctorate. Our staff includes nationally and internationally recognized experts known for excellence in their respective disciplines, innovative research techniques, and insightful and often ground-breaking analyses and recommendations.

Unequalled expertise with survey research projects
Abt Associates designs and conducts complex survey research projects to evaluate public policy and programs and to provide statistical information to support decision-making in both government and business. Abt Associates has developed innovative approaches to computer-assisted data collection, including applications in personal screening and interviewing, record abstraction in institutional settings, and telephone surveys.

Experience with a full range of clients
Our principal work is conducting research for government clients. We have successfully assisted numerous Federal departments and agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Defense (DoD), and many more. We also work with leading private sector organizations in biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical devices, diagnostics and other areas. And our clients include a wide range of foundations focused on world health and other pressing issues.

For more information on Abt Associates, go to www.abtassociates.com.